

Joint Concept Development and Experimentation Directorate

U.S. Joint Forces Command's Joint Concept Development and Experimentation (JCD&E) Directorate (J9) develops innovative joint concepts and capabilities and provides proven solutions to the most pressing problems facing the joint force. Operationally relevant solutions are rapidly delivered to support current operations and drive doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership, personnel and facilities (DOTMLPF) and policy changes to better enable the future joint force. J9 provides leadership and collaborative environments to generate innovative ideas with a range of interagency, multinational, academic and private sector partners.

J9 evaluates alternatives and oversees the development, testing and validation of joint concepts focused on specific problems identified in the Joint Operating Environment or gaps in doctrine. J9 works closely with other DoD research, development, testing and evaluation offices and applies methods similar to those used in technology testing and evaluation and field demonstration.

J9 leads and coordinates JCD&E for DoD through an enterprise approach, applying structured, disciplined and transparent processes.

Combatant commands (COCOM) and the services define the problem set.

- Four star endorsed warfighter challenges (WFC) are the basis for JCD&E projects.
- WFCs are prioritized by the JCD&E Enterprise (COCOMs, the services, the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Staff) based on command importance and strategic guidance within a context of the JOE and the Capstone Concept for Joint Operations (CCJO).
- The annual JCD&E Enterprise Campaign Plan, which defines and synchronizes experimentation efforts across DoD, is developed and endorsed by the JCD&E Enterprise, approved by the USJFCOM commander, and submitted to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Warfighters are directly involved in developing and validating concepts and solutions.

- Customer and other stakeholder commitment to actively participate in JCD&E projects is a prerequisite to commencement. Warfighter and expert engagement is essential to ensure solutions meet their needs.
- Multiple methods of analytically rigorous experimentation – including discovery, hypothesis testing and demonstration – are applied in solution-focused projects to thoroughly and objectively examine potential solutions.
- Realistic, scenario-based experimentation environments are created and distributed to support operator participation in conditions that closely simulate real-world operations and future challenges.

Validated solutions contribute directly to current operations and drive change across DOTMLPF and policy.

- Planning for the hand-off of validated solutions to the customer is fundamental to experiment design. Specific organizations that possess the authority and resources to affect change in each element of DOTMLPF and policy for the subject's mission area are identified along with the products they need to support rapid change.
- Customers and stakeholders are included in experimentation early so they understand the problem, are part of the solution development and are ready to turn results into action.